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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1063
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3447
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1533
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1520
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2542
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5266
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2887
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3367
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 3195
RUEHBD/AMCONSUL PERTH 1368
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RHHJJPI/USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 002317

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: COUNTERTERRORISM -- IN REACTION TO MUMBAI ATTACKS,
GOI STAGES LARGE-SCALE EXERCISE

Classified By: Pol/C Joseph L. Novak, reasons 1.4(b+d).

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On the orders of President Yudhoyono, Indonesian police and military units staged counterterrorism drills in six locations on December 21, including in Jakarta and Bali. The large-scale national exercise was held in response to the Mumbai attacks, with police and military units practicing coordinated responses to simulated attacks on various targets, including hotels, key tourist sites and ships, etc. The exercise had air, land, and sea elements, and received widespread media coverage.

¶2. (C) SUMMARY (Con'd): The GOI's Detachment 88--which is USG-trained--was the primary tactical police unit involved in the drill. The fact that the Indonesian government moved so quickly to hold the exercises indicates its continued awareness of the terrorist threat--as starkly highlighted by the Mumbai attacks--and the need for vigilance and training to counter that threat. END SUMMARY.

PRESIDENT ORDERS EXERCISE

¶3. (SBU) Indonesia has held a large-scale anti-terrorist exercise. Shortly after the Mumbai attacks, President Yudhoyono ordered that police, military and first responders engage in a nationwide exercise to test the GOI's capabilities. Working quickly, Indonesian police, military and emergency response teams held joint counterterrorism exercises in six locations throughout Indonesia on December 21, including:

-- Jakarta;
-- Semarang in central Java;
-- Yogyakarta in central Java;

-- Surabaya in east Java;
-- Denpasar, Bali; and,
-- the Straits of Malacca off of Sumatra Island.

VARIOUS SCENARIOS

14. (SBU) Police, military and response personnel practiced several counterterrorism scenarios. In one simulation, anti-terrorism police responded to a mock attack and hostage-taking involving a five-star hotel. At Jakarta's Halim airport, military units overpowered mock militants who had hijacked an airplane. (Note: Halim is a military airbase with a civilian component located in east Jakarta. The major airport in the Jakarta region is Sukarno-Hatta International Airport.) The simulations also covered several hostage taking scenarios--in an airport in Surabaya, in a powerplant in Semarang, and a passenger ship in the Straits of Malacca off of Sumatra.

PARTICIPATION BY KEY UNITS

15. (C) The primary tactical forces deployed by the police were the U.S.-trained Detachment 88 Crisis Response Teams. The primary tactical units for the military were from Detachment 81. The two detachments alternated taking the lead in several exercises. Additional perimeter support was provided by police patrol units and traffic police. The military were the primary units in the Halim Airport exercise. More than 7,000 military, police, and emergency response personnel were involved in the exercises.

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16. (SBU) The joint drills demonstrated preparedness. Some of the drills were watched by guests, including diplomats and senior leadership of the government, including the military and police. The military spokesperson said the GOI would take the lessons learned from the Mumbai attacks and apply those lessons in Indonesia. The exercises would also serve as deterrent to would-be terrorists from targeting Indonesia. Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Widodo Adi Sucipto said evaluating the coordination between the police and military was the most valuable aspect of the exercises.

USG SUPPORT KEY

17. (C) The anti-terrorism exercise also demonstrated the benefits of international support--especially U.S. support--to Indonesia's security sector. As noted, U.S.-trained and equipped units played a leading role in the exercise and are Indonesia's most effective CT forces. The exercise also demonstrated excellent coordination between the police and military--a key goal of our security assistance here. While Indonesia has made impressive strides combating terrorism, continued U.S. engagement is necessary to maintain that success.

HUME